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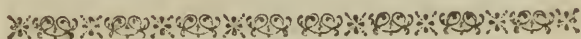


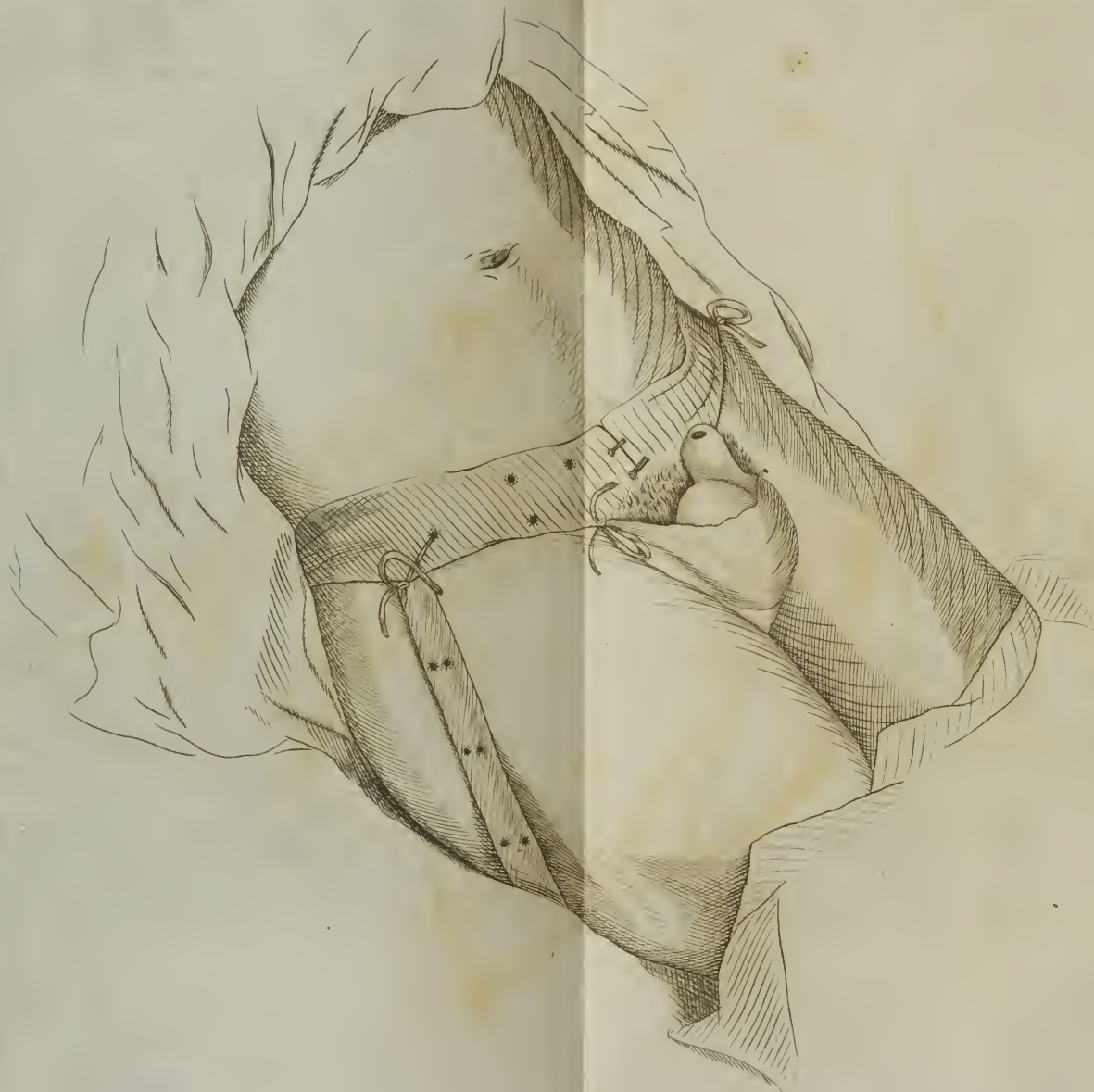
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A  
DISSERTATION  
ON  
HERNIA HUMORALIS.





A  
DISSERTATION  
ON

*HERNIA HUMORALIS.*

BY  
PAUL MICHEAU, SURGEON.

A N D  
Fellow of the LYCEUM MEDICUM LONDINENSE.



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TO  
RICHARD BAYLEY,  
SURGEON.  
THIS  
DISSERTATION  
ON  
*HERNIA HUMORALIS*,  
IS

With the greatest Respect,

Inscribed,

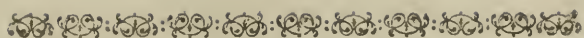
By his

Most obedient,

And most humble servant,

PAUL MICHEAU.





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## DISSERTATION, &c.

**H**ERNIA Humoralis according to Dr. Swediaur, and other respectable authors, particularly Mr. White of Manchester, is said to take its rise in the *tunica vaginalis* or some of the more superficial membranes of the testicle, and likewise that the testicle itself is never swelled, or in the least affected in the beginning of this complaint, and that the only affected and swelled part is the *epididymis*. He adds moreover that if the testicle becomes swelled, it is not till subsequent to other parts becoming affected, and that from bad treatment. It is most commonly a venereal symptom, but may also happen from irritation, from bruises, and other external injuries ; it may terminate in any of the ways that are common to inflammation. This description in itself is very erroneous, and I may say with strict propriety, spurious in the highest degree, from my own as well as from  
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the experience of the most respectable surgeons in London, and elsewhere, who have opportunities to observe the malady repeatedly, and in all its stages, coincide with me, in asserting that the disease is always from what ever cause it may happen, an inflammation confined in its first appearance, to the *epididymis* and *tunica albuginea*, and seldom or never affects any of the neighbouring or adjacent parts, except by sympathy, save the testis, which it does to a very great degree almost immediately. The testis, in all cases, if judiciously and accurately attended to, will be found to have participated instantaneously with the primary affection; that is, it will be painful and enlarged as soon as the *epididymis* or any other part inservient to the testicle, except the spermatic process. A varicous state of the *spermatica vasa* or distention of the spermatic vessels, with those of the scrotum, is in general the first symptom. When this relaxation has taken place, it is distinguished by an equable tumor, or dilatation of the chord beginning at the *vesicula seminalis*, and terminating in the *epididymis* seldom at first attended

tended with pain, save when handled, and productive of no inconvenience, but what arises from its bulk. I positively deny that *hernia humoralis terminates* analogous to inflammation in ordinary, namely by suppuration, I challenge any man, let his practice have been ever so extensive, to produce and prove an instance of this ever happening, that it is possible for incidents of this nature to take place from inaccurate treatment. I will not venture to prove to the contrary, but I have my own and other unquestionable and unimpeached authority to corroborate with me in asserting that no such thing has ever been the consequence, admitting the inflammation to have made ever so great a progress.

*Of the cause of the Disease.*

THIS I verily believe with most authors to proceed from, when an attendant on gonorrhœa, a stoppage of the discharge of the venereal virus, *ab urethram* the most ready as well

as the most facile way to effect this will be to irritate some part of the canal, or passage of the *urethra* either by cold, or other stimulants, such as drastic injections, which prove used by the most adroit and gentle hand, to be powerful stimuli, therefore highly prejudicial in gonorrhœa of the most benign species, these two *stimuli applied* in a greater or smaller degree seldom or never fail, to put a total restraint to the discharge. Another very common remote cause of *hernia humoralis* is mechanicle stimuli, and the most frequent one made use of, productive of putting a stop, and being attended, with all the preceeding related, unhappy consequences, is a parsimonious, or copious use of venery, this indeed of all the irritaters practised upon the subject of swelled testicle ought most to be avoided, for very many obvious and substantial reasons, the application of these stimuli, produce in the course of twenty-four hours, a transposition of the venereal virus, either to the *caput gallinaginis*, or the mouth of the excretory ducts of the feminal vessels, and from hence it is transposed *per via vasa preparantia*,

to the *epididymis*, where it lies dormant for some considerable length of time; till heat mechanically propagated, spurs it on to a painful and operose state.

*Method proposed to consummate the cure.*

As this disease is manifestly inflammatory, we shall prescribe such remedies and medicines as we shall think most properly adapted, to be amenable to the purposes of taking off, or reducing the inflammation. These are emetics, opiates, clysters, applications to the part, suspension, bleeding, and lastly, purgative medicines administered *per via* the mouth. In the first place how are we to let blood in this affection, which is to the most inaccurate observer local, by venesection performed in the arm, or any other distant part, or are we to bleed topically, certainly every rational and modern informed man, will prefer drawing blood copiously from the disease, and in such quantity as to produce a relaxation of the vessels concerned in the malady, every person knows what the consequence will be of general

ral bleeding, it in all cases produces such a universal debility all over the vascular system, that weeks, nay months very often are found not to be a time sufficient to restore the afflicted and unhappy patient, to his original situation. The most easy as well as the most proper mode made use of, for the purpose of emptying the distended veins, is by the application of three or more large leeches, such as our fountains to the northward abound with. The method now in vogue, is to apply the leech confined under glass vessels, a wine glass with the foot broke off will answer extremely well, stiff paper twisted in a conic form proves to be a most excellent substitute; these animals thus confined in an atmosphere of their own production, will soon become restless, subsequent to which they will, in a few seconds of time insinuate their mouths into the trunks or ramifications of veins, out of which they will in a very short space of time, fill themselves and then drop off, the orifices that they will have drilled into the vessels, upon their being kept relaxed with cloths wrung out of tepid water will continue oozing, for  
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three or four hours, so that in this process you may obtain a pound of blood, avoirdupois, which will be a quantity sufficient to take the tension and contraction from off the vessels, and thereby alleviate the pain. I have seen an infinite number of swelled testicles, and treated in various ways, and never yet knew of any remedy assist so strongly in the production of a crisis, as the application of leeches.

Patients laboring under this affection have told me, that being under the influence of leeches have wrought such wonderful effects upon them for the better, that the change from a vehemently painful situation to that of a perfect quiescent one, was so rapid that they were not able to describe it; this I can very easily imagine, any thing possessed of the power of quickly diminishing the venal and arterial tubes of their contents as well as the impetus of the blood derived to the debilitated part will be an instrument capable of bringing about this happy effect; and agreeable to the Brownonian system the parts are indirectly in a very high state of debility, stimuli doubtless of every denomination, is endowed with the power of being productive

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ductive of very relaxative effects. After having said so much respecting the good effects attendant upon the application of leeches, I come in the next place to take notice of the *aqua vegeto mineralis* or saturnine-water, or more properly Mons. Goulard's wash, composed of litharge vinegar and water\*. This preparation, when combined with that much to be relied on and incomparable stimulous known in the dispensatory by the appellation of laudanum, or *tinctura thebaica* is deserving of much elege. I could, had I not set out with fixed determinations to the contrary, pass many encomiums interesting on this excellent application in other diseases; but my business here is to elucidate the qualifications it is possessed of, in restoring the pristine tone or nearly that of the enervated testis and its appendages. This is the only purpose this composition can answer, it has I presume, notwithstanding the assertions of Mr. White, very little to do in the removal of inflammation; neither ought it to be made use of till the redness, tension, and pain, have  
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\* *Aqu. Veget. Miner.*

*Oz. viii. Tinct. Theb.*

*Oz. ii. Optime misce,*

in some degree subfided; then from its astringent and stimulant powers it will brace, constringe, and strengthen the spermatic process, as also the *cremasteric muscle*, or *musculi testis*, a restoration of the energy to those parts, as also the *dartos*, muscular coats of the veins, arteries and absorbents, are circumstances particularly and principally to have in view, a strong aid to this application, and one which I would in all cases most strenuously recommend, is the patent suspensory of Mr. Holmes, London, its only utility till very recently, was that of suspending what the north country men have been pleased to call, though very improperly, whiffled scrotums. What we understand by relaxed scrotums, produced by exercising on horseback or in any other violent way, whoever will do me the honor to read this dissertation, will find that I have given a very accurate delineation of this suspensory neatly applied, if then this mode of treatment is properly attended to, it will in two cases out of three so totally terminate the inflammation as to be quite unnecessary to make use of the *anguentum cæruleum fortius*, electric sparks, or any other such cogent stimuli,

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li, in every instance when I have been early called to a patient affected with this unfortunate disease, I have experienced the most happy success the inflammation by the above recited remedies with the assistance of opiates, emetics and clysters, has been so fairly and perfectly eradicated as not to leave the smallest vestige of induration, therefore mercury and every other strong stimuli must manifestly be unnecessary, though mercurial ointment, Mr. *White* who has anticipated me in almost every thing, extols very highly, without telling us how it is to be used, and when it is absolutely necessary; mercurial preparations applied then with ever so sparing a hand and ever so cautiously, will, unless combined with some other application, excoriate the skin to such a degree that the remedy is almost as disagreeable as the malady; should however induration be the consequence of *Hernia Humoralis*, then we are necessitated to make use of mercury by friction; the only method to use it to prevent its fretting the cuticula, will be the following: A half hour previous to the hour of sleep, make use of by friction,

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tion, two drachmas of *anguentum cæruleum fortius*; let sometime be taken up in the rubbing of the unguent over all the indurated part in the course of the absorbents, and let this remedy be put into execution before a fire, subsequent to which make use of the *tinctura thebaica*, and Goulard in the same manner as already prescribed, let a linen cloth folded three times, be dipt in the wash and applied. This renovated whenever the patient wakes; it will be proper to have a basin standing in some convenient place near the bed: This is to be continued so long as any induration remains, until a perfect softness is established, the patient in the day time is to wear the patent suspensory as already mentioned, in the night he must substitute the T bandage made of white flannel, the softer and more elastic the better; this retainer will answer the purpose of keeping on the application much better than linen, in consequence of the latter stretching; likewise a bandage made of flannel from the circumstance of its undergoing no elongation and expansion but what it can retrieve, will make a much bet-

ter suspenser. Should this remedy prove a sufficient preventative against that excoriation produced by the use of the *cæruleum fortius* alone, I shall be very happy, as I flatter myself I am the first person who has prescribed it. Before I dismiss this part of my dissertation I beg leave to recommend it to every person who may peruse it, to be very particular in what mercurial ointment he puts in practice; the ointment ought not to have the smallest particle of sulphur in it, it should be made with equal parts of quicksilver and mutton suet to three parts of fresh hogs lard, grind them diligently in a marble mortar till the globules disappear; let me entreat moreover, of every person, be the season what it may, while under the influence of mercury to wear flannel next the skin, it is absolutely necessary that the secretion of insensible perspirable matter should be encouraged.

Before I take a final discharge of a subject so interesting to mankind I will offer a few ideas respecting the virtues of opium in this disease. I always give opium very freely on the first attack, and judge by its effects, how to continue it;

it ; practitioners say if it is of no service at the beginning: no good is to be expected from it, and when it does no good it often does harm; this is not true; perspiration, which is a thing very much to be kept up, is attended with very salutary effects, opium will hasten this, and bring on a crisis before the blood is further changed ; for if the perspiration has not been long stopped it will certainly produce a sweat and a speedy cure, or if some transitory passion of the mind has raised a sudden fever, a large dose of opium will do more good at the beginning than any other medicine. I generally, previous to the exhibition of opium, administer a strong emetic, the one which I have been most in the habit of giving is a solution of emetic tartar and ipecacuan, to promote as speedily and powerfully as can safely be done, a determination to the surface, and more equable distribution of the fluids, and thereby to remove the constriction induced upon the parts: emetics, it would appear from reasoning, and have been proved from experience, to be the principal remedies ; but as, in complaints allowed



to be inflammatory, it is pretty generally supposed, that bleeding should necessarily precede these, and the propriety of employing this remedy early in *Hernia Humoralis*, has been strongly contended for by men of the first reputation, and I believe upon substantial grounds, premising at the same time purgatives and clysters. I generally rely more upon clysters than any other remedy for emptying the intestinal canal, they complete it effectually, and they act powerfully as a fomentation to the neighbouring parts, therefore always commendable.

I have said that very eminent medical men have asserted that opium improperly administered does mischief; there is not the smallest doubt that great numbers are daily destroyed by it, not indeed by such doses as kill suddenly, for that happens very seldom, but by its being given unseasonably, in such diseases and to such constitutions for which it is not proper. Every body knows that a large dose of laudanum will kill, and therefore, they need not be cautioned on that head; but there are few who consider it as a slow poison, though it certainly  
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is so, when improperly given. Hence it is that cautions are necessary, and the rather, because its operation is so slow and gradual, that the true cause of the patients death is not suspected, even by the prescriber himself, therefore persists in this fatal error. The danger of opium as a slow poison, flows often from two sources, which I will just mention here, one of them is, that it is often the best palliative, and gives present ease, even in diseases which it either confirms and increases. By this temporary relief we are often deceived into mistakes about its effects, indeed it is no great wonder, but in local inflammation concomitant with no other disease we are perfectly at liberty to employ opium, and in very large doses, and it is absolutely good practice to persist in this remedy till the excruciating torture is mitigated: Every one knows who has been spectator to a person laboring under *Hernia Humoralis*, that the pain is almost insupportable. Subjects of this malady have said, that if their testicle was in a vice it could not be productive of more pressing pain; opium in skillful hands should be given

in this disease most unquestionably till the pain and pressing have subsided, opium given ever so largely, will very often fail in producing sleep, and when it does every one knows perfectly well what the consequence is. A medical friend of mine has had occasion to feel many of the effects of opium upon himself, for he has lately been very subject to a cough, upon catching cold, which has frequently seized him when he was otherwise in perfect health, his common cure was opium, which usually had the following effects, in the first place it commonly made him sleep, which is its most constant effect, except in some particular constitutions, or when sleep is impeded by other causes, which was sometimes his own case, for one night a violent head ach, another, a disagreeable piece of news, and a third night a small fever over balanced the soporific quality of the opium, and hindered him from sleeping: These causes were evident, and such as every one would expect might prevent the opium from taking effect; but it is also certain, that there are many imperceptible causes, which hinder

hinder us from sleeping, with such a dose as has been found abundantly soporific before ; so that opium will not always make us sleep, even when there is no apparent cause to disturb us, by a moderate dose, i. e. twenty drops of liquid laudanum, taken at bed time, his cough was often cured the very next day, if mild and recent, and he was no otherwise indisposed, all the effects were, sleeping better, and being cured, but if he took thirty five drops instead of twenty, then the next morning he found the drowsiness continue longer, his face being a little swelled, his skin hotter and sometimes drier, though at other times a gentle sweat came on, his tongue was whitish and his breast bound till when the effects of the laudanum ceased. Thus he has often had his cough seemingly cured in the morning, by the laudanum which he took the preceeding night ; but it returned in the afternoon, when the effect of the opium was over, yet opium was still the cure. There have been instances of patients in the hospital who have remembered its vir-

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tues some months after, and have told their physician that they had formerly cured them of a cough with one dose of a medicine that wrought like a charm.

F I N I S.









